

# Governor Carney: We are here for you

*During the month of April, Governor John Carney signed proclamations to draw attention to child abuse prevention, sexual assault awareness and prevention, and crime victims' rights. Below is a [note](#) from Governor Carney on all three proclamation signings:*

Over the past month, I've recognized the victims across Delaware who are sometimes pushed down or silenced after being targets of heinous crimes like abuse and assault.

In recognizing **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month**, and **Crime Victims' Rights Week**, we want to show our commitment to those individuals who sometimes feel voiceless, and remind them, we are here for you. We will continue to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions through the hard work and dedication of our law enforcement and advocates across the state.



*Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation*

This week, we heard from advocates that over 20,000 reports of alleged child abuse, neglect or dependency are made in Delaware every year. We heard that over 65% of sexual assaults go unreported. We heard many personal stories of abuse and neglect.

We also heard from state agencies and organizations such as the [Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children](#), the [Sexual Assault Network of Delaware](#), and the [Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force](#) about the important work being done to support victims and to prevent abuse and sexual assault across the spectrum – whether it occurs in the home, or the workplace.

**We remain dedicated to addressing these issues, and here are a few things we're doing to uphold that commitment:**

Earlier this month, along with my wife Tracey, we launched [#FirstChanceDE](#), an initiative which will help [lift up children](#) who are dealing with trauma, hunger and other events that might hold them back from reaching their full potential.

The State of Delaware, like all employers, has an obligation to protect our employees from facing harassment and assault of any kind in the workplace. That's why I directed the Delaware Department of Human Resources Secretary Johnson to [prepare a report](#) on our state's policies and procedures, and to look at ways we can make improvements. We will take appropriate action on all of the report's recommendations.



*Governor Carney prepares to sign the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation.*

We will continue to work with partners across the state to make sure that victims feel supported.

I'm honored I got to spend time with these individuals and advocates. Thank you for your hard work for these causes.

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*More Information*

[First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney's First Chance Delaware Initiative](#)

[Governor Carney Releases Report on State's Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures](#)